

# Reading Park, Pool Near 'Toxic Waste Site

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Poisonous industrial wastes are buried near Reading recreation areas and the municipal swimming pool, according to a map prepared by state officials Thursday.

And Bill Barrow, hazardous waste scientist for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), said the wastes are migrating through the soil meant to contain them.

FOR VARIOUS reasons, he said he suspects they come from the fenced West Street plant of Carstab Corp., which was Cincinnati Milacron Chemical Inc. until recently when it was sold and renamed. His reasons include:

- The detailed map was drawn by OEPA by employees and former employees of Carstab/Milacron.

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- Map of Carstab plant area, Page C-3.
- Hamilton's "Love Canal," Page C-3.

- Barrow has names of men who say they helped bury the wastes at Milacron.

- Pollution oozing into the Mill Creek contains chemicals Milacron used for years.

Another former employee confirmed the details of the map Thursday. "That's where they buried everything. I even took stuff down there."

He worked at Milacron Chemical in the early 1970s and said onsite waste disposal included a field on the southwest corner of the proper-

ty and ponds on the northwest. They were in use when he was hired and when he left, he said.

"THEY BURIED a lot of stuff down there. That's where they buried everything, all types of chemicals they had."

Sometimes, the former employee said he saw "vapors and stuff reacting with each other" in the burial pit.

No instructions to separate various chemicals were posted nor was he aware of any special construction to keep the chemicals from migrating through the soil. "It was just a hole in the ground. It was just dug out."

The ponds were worse, he said. "They were in terrible shape. You had to watch where you walked. That stuff cut into the banks and you could fall in..."

Carstab President Ralph Binns,

a veteran of Milacron Chemical, could not be reached for comment.

The former employee who recalled the disposal sites was not one of the men who drew the map for OEPA, but the descriptions agree.

The mapmakers indicated ponds and a large field where chemicals were dumped. The field and at least one of the ponds have been covered, they added.

Wastes were buried as deep as 15 feet in steel and fiber drums, they said, while liquids went in the ponds. Most of the wastes are in the southwest field of the Carstab land on the map.

OUTSIDE THE fence on the south side are a company recreation area used by community groups, the city's Riesenber Park and pool, and Mike Haffey Field's four baseball diamonds.

The ponds are on the north side

of the industrial site.

To the west is the Mill Creek.

Barrow, who is part of the land pollution-control team based in Dayton, found "toxic" wastes leaching through the soil into Mill Creek last Friday. This triggered his concern about chemicals moving beyond their burial site.

Thursday, Reading Police Chief Richard "Greg" Hostluck said he is asking retired officers if they recall chemical dumping beyond the present plant fence where play fields may be today.

MILACRON BOUGHT Reading's Carlisle Chemical Works in 1948 and moved it to the new West Street plant in 1950. The machine tool firm recently sold its chemical subsidiary to Thlokol Corp., Newtown, Pa.

Barrow's creek-bank evidence confirms an earlier OEPA finding, his boss, Tom Winston, said Thursday.

